Night Desk—

Old Lynching Case Brought Up Again

Q.—Please give me the date of the hanging and shooting of Mr. Rankin at Walnut Log on Reelfoot Lake by the Night Riders.

A.—Quentin Rankin and Col. R. L. Taylor, Trenton lawyers, were seized by a band of masked men and taken to the edge of Reelfoot Lake in October 1908. Colonel Taylor escaped.

Six men were sentenced to die and two were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for the murder of Mr. Rankin, but on appeal the case was reversed and none of the convicted men was executed.

The lawyers were suspected of being employed by a land company which was in a protracted and bitter dispute with commercial fishermen on the lake. The lynching was followed by use of the National Guard to restore order in an area which had been torn by a long series of incidents, of which the fishing dispute was only a later development.

Most of the activities of the Night Riders had originated with resentment of the farmers against "the tobacco trust." The tobacco growers organized to fight the "trust" and the Night Riders enforced their regulations on uncooperative neighbors.

States, Special Information About Particular.

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1908

RECORD OF LYNCHING

SHOW CRIME IS ON THE INCREASE.

Alabama Makes a Fairly Good Showing Comparatively—Interesting Statistics Are Compiled.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 19.—The lynching record for 1908 shows that the practice of taking summary vengeance on persons guilty of certain forms of crime is increasing rather than diminishing. The figures for the twelve months beginning January 1, 1909, are larger than for several years past. Though the most of the lynchings occurred in the South, they were not confined to that section by any means. Springfield, Ill., was the scene of the greatest race riot of the year, resulting in the lynching of two negroes and the killing and wounding of a number of citizens who participated in the riots that lasted several days. Of the other Northern States one lynching is recorded for Indiana, while California furnished the only lynching in the Far West.

Mississippi, Georgia and Texas, in the order named, furnished the greatest number of lynchings for the year. A quadruple lynching in Kentucky increased the figures in that State over those of previous years. The record of Texas for 1908 was six-fold greater than in 1907. In Arkansas, Alabama and Louisiana there were fewer lynchings than in 1907. Oklahoma shows a clean slate and so do Maryland, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. In all of which States lynchings occurred in 1907.

The lynchings for 1908 total eighty-eight. This number is exclusive of several who met death while being pursued by posses or resisting arrest. Of the eighty-eight victims, eighty-two were negroes and four were white men.

Following is a tabulated statement:

Alabama.

January 9, Dothan, Cleveland Franklin, robbery and shooting.

April 4, Bay Minette, Walter Clayton, criminal assault.

August 4, Brighton, William Miller, dynamiting.

October 30, Decatur, Tom Sover, attempted assault.

Arkansas.

June 22, Parkdale, Ernest Williams, insulting women.

California.

April 2, Skidoo, Joseph Simpson (white), murder.

Florida.

February 1, Greenville, Charley Pittman, murder.

February 6, Newberry, Jack Long (white), murder.

March 19, Perry, Richard Smith, murder.

March 19, Perry, Will McMullen, murder.

April 24, Millville, two negroes, shooting.

July 29, Pensacola, Leander Shaw, criminal assault.

Georgia.

January 9, Goldsboro, two negroes (shot by posse), murderous assault.

March 5, Hawkinsville, Curry Robinson, murder.

March 5, Hawkinsville, John Henry, murder.

March 5, Hawkinsville, two negroes (shot) interfering with mob.

June 27, Waycross, Walter Wilkins, criminal assault.

June 27, Waycross, Albert Baker, criminal assault.

July 28, Lyons, Alonzo Williams, criminal assault.

August 8, Tifton, Charlie Lockie, insulting women.

August 25, Louisville, Vance Williams, murder.

September 6, Damascus, John Towns, criminal assault.

September 21, Fort Gaines, George Thomas, shooting.

October 11, Younker, Henry White, lynching.

Illinois.

August 14, Springfield, Burton Scott, victim of race riots.

August 14, Springfield, William Donegan, victim of race riots.

Indiana.

May 28, Millersburg, W. W. Pattiugh (white), abducting neighbor's wife.

Kentucky.

May 31, Providence, Jacob McDowell, murder.

August 1, Russellville, Virgil Jones, complicity in murder.

August 1, Russellville, Tom Jones, complicity in murder.

August 1, Russellville, Robert Jones, complicity in murder.

August 1, Russellville, Joe Riley, complicity in murder.

October 2, Hickman, David Walker, insulting women. (Several members of Walker's family also killed.)

Louisiana.

February 8, Oak Grove, Robert Mitchell, murder.

June 8, Homer, Bird Cooper, following acquittal for murder.

July 19, Catahoula Parish, three negroes, incendiarism.

July 28, near Shreveport, Andrew Harris, attempted assault.

September 18, Batchelor, John Miles, shooting.

October 12, New Iberia, Nicholas Hector, murderous assault.

Mississippi.

January 3, Brookhaven, Coot Autman, murder.

January 23, Commerce, two negroes, murder and robbery.

February 10, Brookhaven, Eli Pigot, criminal assault.

March 9, Van Cleave, Daye Poe, incendiarism.

March 9, Van Cleave, Tem Ranston, incendiarism.

March 9, Van Cleave, two Jenkins brothers, incendiarism.

April 5, Wesson, John Burr, murder.

August 27, Ittabena, John Smith, robbery.

August 27, Ittabena, John Williams, robbery.

September 8, Oxford, Lawson Patrick, assault and murder.

October 9, Hickory, three negroes, innocent suspects.

October 11, Lula, Jim and Frank Davis, shooting.

October 15, near Hernando, W. J. Jackson, robbery.

November 10, Pilgal, Manry Leidy, criminal assault.

November 14, Coldwater, Nick Veazey, complicity in murder.

North Carolina.

January 8, Johnston county, unknown negro, fraud (lynched by negroes.)

South Carolina.

November 28, Luray, Jim Gilmore, attempted assault.

Tennessee.

January 20, Morgan county, Walter Cole, murder.

May 4, Pulaski, Elmo Harvard, attempted assault.

July 14, Middletown, Hugh Jones, attempted assault.

August 28, Murfreesboro, George Johnston, attempted assault.

October 30, Kingston, George Cook, murder.

November 24, Tiptonville, three Stineback brothers, race riot.

Texas.

February 28, Conroe, Charles Scott, attempted assault.

March 7, Navasota, John Campbell, murderous assault.

April 9, Longview, Albert Temple, criminal assault.

May 7, Naples, John Williams, assault to rob.

June 21, Hemphill, six negroes, murder.

July 27, Hunt county, Tad Smith, criminal assault.

September 13, Brookshire, John Newton, murder.

September 22, Grimes county, Nail Hopkins, murderous assault.

October 5, Glen Flora, Ben Price, criminal assault.

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